

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figure 5 is being presented as a new formal drawing sheet. Figure 5 is added.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 and 20-36 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims.

Claim objections

An objection has been raised with respect to claims 3, 6, 10, and 14-15 for various informalities. Claims 3, 6, 10, and 14-15 have been canceled, which renders the rejection of these claims moot. For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Drawings

An objection has been raised with respect to the drawings because the figures do not show multiple layers (as recited in claim 2), flat conductors (as recited in claims 7 and 18), and interlacing connections (as recited in claim 15). This objection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

In regard to the multiple layers and flat conductors, it is respectfully submitted that a figure is not necessary to show these features since a multi-layered structure and flat conductor are readily understandable to one of ordinary skill in the art by relying on the plain meaning of these terms. A detailed illustration of a multi-layered structure and/or flat conductors is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Figure 5 has been added which shows multiple layers and flat conductors. Figure 5 finds support, *inter alia*, in the original specification at the paragraph beginning at page 3, lines 25-32 and page 6, lines 7-12. Applicant has submitted the new Figure 5 solely to expedite prosecution and does not believe that this drawing is necessary to understand the invention.

Furthermore, conductors are shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 4.

Claim 15 has been canceled which renders the objection based on this claim moot.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, and 13-19 based on Jinno

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 13-16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,356,187 (“Jinno”). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jinno. For at least the following reasons, these rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 (as amended) recites, among other things, a seat for a vehicle, comprising: a supporting structure; a support; and wiring, apart from a seat heating system. The wiring is fixed to the support. The wiring comprises flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Jinno does not teach or suggest the combination of features of claim 1. For example, Jinno does not teach or suggest flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. The PTO considers the electrodes E1 and E2 of Jinno to be the flat conductors of the claims. (Page 4 of the Office Action.) However, the electrodes E1 and E2 of Jinno are not connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Because Jinno does not teach or suggest flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices, claim 1 is allowable over Jinno.

Claims 2-4, 7-9, 11, and 13-19 have been canceled, which renders the rejection of these claims moot.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 5-6 and 10 based on Jinno and Suematsu

Claims 5-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jinno and U.S. Patent No. 5,329,096 (“Suematsu”).

Claims 5-6 and 10 have been canceled, which renders the rejection of these claims moot.

To the extent that this rejection may be applied to claim 1. Jinno and Suematsu do not teach or suggest the combination of features of claim 1. For example and as previously mentioned, Jinno does not teach or suggest flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Suematsu does not cure this deficiency. Because Jinno and Suematsu do not teach or suggest all the features of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over Jinno and Suematsu.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claim 12 based on Jinno and Kustanovich

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jinno and U.S. Patent No. 4,644,801 (“Kustanovich”).

Claim 12 has been canceled, which renders the rejection of this claim moot.

To the extent that this rejection may be applied to claim 1. Jinno and Kustanovich do not teach or suggest the combination of features of claim 1. For example and as previously mentioned, Jinno does not teach or suggest flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Kustanovich does not cure this deficiency. Because Jinno and Kustanovich do not teach or suggest all the features of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable over Jinno and Kustanovich.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 20-36

Claims 20-33 depend from and contain all the features of claim 1, and are allowable over Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich for the reasons provided above, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

Claim 34 recites, among other things, a method for assembling a seat for a vehicle, the seat having a supporting structure, a support and wiring, apart from a seat heating system, the method comprising: (a) fixing the wiring to a layer of the support; (b) fitting layers of the support onto the seat; and (c) joining together the layers of the support. Step (c) takes place either before or after step (b). The wiring comprises flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich do not teach or suggest this combination of features. For example and as previously mentioned, Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich do not teach or suggest flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Thus, claim 34 is allowable over Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich.

Claim 35 recites, among other things, a vehicle seat comprising: wiring comprising flat conductors that are apart from any seat heating system; and a support. The flat conductors are fixed to the support. The flat conductors are connected to a plurality of energy

consuming devices. Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich do not teach or suggest this combination of features. For example and as previously mentioned, Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich do not teach or suggest flat conductors connected to a plurality of energy consuming devices. Thus, claim 35 is allowable over Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich.

Claim 36 depends from and contains all the features of claim 35, and is allowable over Jinno, Suematsu, and Kustanovich for the reasons provided above, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, allowance of claims 20-36 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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